

Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SECTO 02017

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJ: MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER FROM
SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT. MR. FOREIGN MINISTER: AS WE
DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON, OUR THINKING ON THE
CORRECT APPROACH IN RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPING
AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAS EVOLVED. TODAY I
PUT FORWARD WITH IEA A PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO OVERCOME THE
IMPASSE BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS, OTHER DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IT IS
DESIGNED TO MEET THE CONCERNS WHICH YOU, AND YOUR
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING, MR.
PEREZ GUERRERO, EXPRESS SO ELOQUENTLY. I HOPE
YOU CAN SUPPORT IT.

3. THE FIRST STEP, AS I SEE IT, WOULD BE TO
RECONVENE THE PREPARATORY MEETING IN THE SAME
FORMAT AS BEFORE. THE TIME COULD BE RELATIVELY
SOON, CERTAINLY A MATTER OF MONTHS AS I SEE NO
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REASON FOR DELAY. I SUGGEST THAT THE FORMAT

REMAIN THE SAME TO AVOID A TEDIOUS, NON-PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATION OVER WHO WOULD ATTEND AND WHAT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE MIGHT BE. CLEARLY WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO DO THAN THAT.

4. THE SECOND STEP WOULD BE FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETING TO AGREE ON THE CREATION OF A NUMBER OF COMMISSIONS TO DEAL WITH THE CRITICAL ISSUES IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THUS COMMISSIONS MIGHT BE SET UP FOR ENERGY, FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED NATIONS, AND FOR RAW MATERIALS. CONCEIVABLY THERE WOULD BE OTHERS. EACH COMMISSION WOULD REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM ASSIGNED TO IT: INCLUDING FINANCE, INVESTMENT, TRADE, AND PRODUCTION.

5. THE WAY IN WHICH EACH COMMISSION PROCEEDS ABOUT ITS WORK WOULD DEPEND IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE ON THE NATURE OF WORK ALREADY BEING DONE IN THE FIELD. FOR THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED, THERE IS ALREADY MUCH ACTIVITY, AND THE COMMISSION'S ROLE WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY TO MONITOR, TO SUPPLEMENT, AND TO ORIENT THAT WORK, GIVING IT THE THRUST AND PURPOSE IT MUST HAVE. THE COMMISSION ON RAW MATERIALS WOULD HAVE A SIMILAR ROLE. IN THE CASE OF ENERGY, SINCE THERE IS NO EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN WHICH THE BASIC QUESTIONS ARE DEALT WITH, THE COMMISSION SHOULD ALSO FUNCTION AS A MEANS OF ADDRESSING AND RESOLVING THE UNDERLYING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

6. IN EACH CASE, I WOULD ENVISAGE THAT THE BASIC ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED BE ADDRESSED. UNDER RAW MATERIALS, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU WOULD NO DOUBT WISH TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF TERMS OF TRADE.

AND WE WISH ON OUR SIDE TO CONSIDER HOW ADEQUATE RESOURCES CAN BE OBTAINED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAW MATERIALS AND HOW IN GENERAL

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RAW MATERIAL MARKETS CAN BE MADE TO FUNCTION MORE EFFICIENTLY. ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS ON COMMODITIES WOULD REMAIN THE PURVIEW OF ALREADY EXISTING COMMODITY GROUPS SUCH AS FOR COFFEE, COCOA, TIN.

7. CLEARLY WE WOULD WANT TO LIMIT MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMISSIONS TO ASSURE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. I THINK WE BOTH ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID A NEW UNCTAD.

IN MY SPEECH TODAY I SUGGESTED THAT WE SEEK TO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 SECTO 02017

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LIMIT THE MEMBERSHIP BY APPROACHING OBJECTIVE CRITERIA. FOR RAW MATERIALS, FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD INCLUDE THOSE COUNTRIES FOR WHICH EXPORTS OR IMPORTS FOR FOOD AND OTHER NON-OIL RAW MATERIALS CONSTITUTE A CERTAIN MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TOTAL NATIONAL PRODUCT, AND SET THAT THRESHHOLD /HIGH ENOUGH TO KEEP THE NUMBERS WITHIN REASON. WE COULD DO THE SAME IN ENERGY. FOR THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED, WE WOULD HAVE TO SEEK ANOTHER FORMULA, ONE IN WHICH REPRESENTATIVE COUNTRIES WITH THE LOWEST CAPITA INCOME WERE CHOSEN ALONG WITH THE TRADITIONAL AND NEW DONORS.

8. THIS PROPOSED APPROACH HAS TWO ORIGINS. FIRST, OUR OWN THINKING WITHIN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION ON RAW MATERIALS AND OTHER ISSUES OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS BEEN EVOLVING OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. I EXPRESSED SOME OF THE FIRST IMPLICATIONS OF OUR NEW THINKING IN A SPEECH AT KANSAS CITY TWO WEEKS AGO. I WILL HAVE SOMETHING MORE TO SAY ABOUT THEM TOMORROW AT THE OECD MEETING.

9. THE SECOND SOURCE IS THE REALIZATION

THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO
FIND A BASIS ON WHICH OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS
COULD DISCUSS THE NEW PROBLEMS OF ENERGY WITHOUT
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ADDRESSING THE ENTIRE RANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES.

10 MY PROPOSAL IS THUS BROUGHT FORWARD IN A
SPIRIT OF CONCILIATION AND INNOVATION. IN DOING
SO, I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DICTATE
TOO CLOSELY THE TIMEFRAME OF THE WORK OF THE
COMMISSIONS -- THAT THEY COULD WORK SIMULTANEOUSLY
OR CONSECUTIVELY AND MIGHT, DEPENDING ON THE DIFFI-
CULTY OF THE TASK AT HAND, REQUIRE A SHORTER OR
LONGER SPAN OF TIME -- NOR SHOULD WE ATTEMPT TO
STRUCTURE TOO PRECISELY THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO
EACH OTHER. MY INTENT, RATHER, IS TO FIND AN
APPROACH WHICH RECOGNIZES BOTH THE ESSENTIAL
UNITY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SEEKING AN
IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,
AND THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS, FORUMS,
AND SUBJECTS TO BE ADDRESSED.

11. PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR REFLECTIONS ON THIS
APPROACH. I INTENDED IT NOT AS A FINAL BLUEPRINT
BUT AS A FORMULA THAT WE CAN USE FLEXIBLY TO RE-
LAUNCH THE DIALOGUE. I WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE UNDERSECRETARY
ROBINSON VISIT CARACAS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IF YOU WISH.
AS SUCH, I THINK IT CAN BE MADE TO SERVE OUR SEVERAL INTERESTS
AS WELL AS THOSE WE HOLD TOGETHER. WITH IT, I HOPE WE MAY
SOON RELAUNCH THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ON THE ISSUE OF
ENERGY, WHICH IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO BOTH OUR
COUNTRIES. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER.
END TEXT.
KISSINGER

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